

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 prompting a first user at a UNIX-based machine for
3 permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located
4 from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine;
5 and
6 if the first user grants permission, enabling the second
7 user to use the UNIX-based machine through the machine
8 remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the prompting
2 comprises making the prompt known to the first user by
3 displaying information on a display of the UNIX-based machine.

1 3. The method of claim 1 in which the second user uses
2 the UNIX-based machine through the machine remotely-located
3 from the UNIX-based machine as if the second user was directly
4 using the UNIX-based machine.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising, before the
2 prompting, replicating current contents of a screen on the
3 UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in a background
4 of the UNIX-based machine.

1 5. The method of claim 2 further comprising adding to
2 the new screen a prompt that asks the first user for the
3 permission.

1 6. The method of claim 2 further comprising replacing
2 the current contents of the screen on the UNIX-based machine
3 with the new screen.

1 7. The method of claim 1 in which the using of the
2 UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the
3 UNIX-based machine from the machine remotely-located from the
4 UNIX-based machine.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the
2 first user does not grant permission, preventing the second
3 user from using the UNIX-based machine through the machine
4 remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the
2 first user at the UNIX-based machine does not respond to the
3 prompting within a certain threshold time, enabling by default
4 the second user to use the UNIX-based machine.

1 10. The method of claim 1 in which the prompting is
2 text-based.

11. An article comprising:

a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

prompt a first user at a UNIX-based machine for permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine; and

if the first user grants permission, enable the second user to use the UNIX-based machine through the machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

12. The article of claim 11 in which the prompting includes making the prompt known to the first user by displaying information on a display of the UNIX-based machine.

13. The article of claim 11 in which the second user uses the UNIX-based machine through the machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine as if the second user was directly using the UNIX-based machine.

14. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to, before the prompting, replicate current contents of a screen on the UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in a background of the UNIX-based machine.

1 15. The article of claim 14 further causing a machine to
2 add to the new screen a prompt that asks the first user for
3 the permission.

1 16. The method of claim 14 further causing a machine to
2 replace the current contents of the screen on the UNIX-based
3 machine with the new screen.

1 17. The article of claim 11 in which the using of the
2 UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the
3 UNIX-based machine from the machine remotely-located from the
4 UNIX-based machine.

1 18. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine
2 to, if the first user does not grant permission, prevent the
3 second user from using the UNIX-based machine through the
4 machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1 19. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine
2 to, if the first user at the UNIX-based machine does not
3 respond to the prompting within a certain threshold time,
4 enable by default the second user to use the UNIX-based
5 machine.

1 20. The article of claim 11 in which the prompting is
2 text-based.

1 21. A system comprising:

2 a first device configured to run UNIX; and

3 a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured
4 to run a process on the first device transparently to a user
5 of the first device, the process configured to prompt the user
6 of the first device for permission for a remote user at a
7 second device at a location remote from the first device to
8 input instructions to the first device from the second device.

1 22. The system of claim 21 in which the process is also
2 configured to, if the user of the first device grants
3 permission, enable the remote user to use the first device
4 through the second device as if the remote user was directly
5 using the first device.

1 23. The system of claim 21 further comprising a second
2 mechanism accessible by the second device and configured to
3 notify the first device when the remote user desires to input
4 instructions to the first device from the second device.

1 24. The system of claim 21 in which the process is also
2 configured to continuously runs on the first device.

1 25. A method comprising:

2 replicating current contents of a display screen visible
3 to a user on a UNIX-based device onto a new screen not visible

on the display screen to the user;

inserting a prompt on the new screen to a user of the UNIX-based device to grant permission for a remote device at a location remote from the UNIX-based device to control the UNIX-based device; and

replacing the current contents of the display screen with the new screen, the new screen visible to the user on the UNIX-based device.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising, after the user responds to the prompt, returning the UNIX-based device back to the current contents of the display screen.

27. A method comprising:

replicating current contents of a screen on a UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in a background of the UNIX-based machine;

adding to the new screen a text prompt prompting a first user at the UNIX-based machine for permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine; and

replacing the current contents of the screen with the new screen.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising determining if the second user may control the UNIX-based

3 machine based on a response to the text prompt by the first
4 user.

1 29. A method comprising:
2 requesting at a machine to remotely control a UNIX-based
3 machine at a location remote from the machine; and
4 determining whether the machine may remotely control the
5 UNIX-based machine based on a response from the UNIX-based
6 machine.

1 30. The method of claim 29 in which remotely controlling
2 the UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the
3 UNIX-based machine from the machine.